

Lake Michigan



White sand beaches, gentle breezes, waves lapping at the shore—welcome to Lake Michigan. As the second largest of the Great Lakes, it is the only Great Lake entirely within the borders of the United States. Formed during the last Great Ice Age, as glaciers moved across the Great Lakes region, it gets its name from the Algonquin word “Michi-gama” meaning “large lake.”

Watersheds of the Great Lakes



Do you live in the Lake Michigan watershed?



Look at the red line on the map above. All the land inside this line is part of the Lake Michigan watershed. What exactly is a watershed? It is the land that water flows across or under on its way to a stream, river, or lake. All the water within the red line eventually makes its way to Lake Michigan. So, you don't have to be living right near the lake to have an effect on it.

If you don't live in the Lake Michigan watershed, which watershed do you live in? The three major watersheds of Wisconsin are the Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, and Mississippi River watersheds. Each of them is broken down even further into smaller watersheds.

Visit <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/gmu/gmu.html> to learn about your local watershed.